

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 132259Z OCT 76

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3767

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 30261

NODIS - CHEROKEE

EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MRS. THATCHER

1. I MET WITH MRS. THATCHER THIS MORNING. MAUDLIHG
WAS ALSO THERE.

2. I SAID THAT YOUR REGARD FOR HER WAS IMMODERATE, AND
THAT YOU FELT THAT SHE MIGHT BENEFIT FROM AN ACCOUNT,
ON YOUR BEHALF, OF THE RHODESIA MATTER FOR HER OWN
PRIVATE UNDERSTANDING, WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT SHE
NOT MAKE USE OF THE FACTS I WAS ABOUT TO DISCLOSE TO
HER.

3. I RECOUNTED OUR EARLIER TALKS WITH HMG ON THE CON-
STITUTIONAL PROCESS WHICH MIGHT BE INSTITUTED IN
RHODESIA IN THE EVENT THAT SMITH ACCEDED TO CALLAGHAN'S
PLAN, OUR TALKS WITH THE AFRICAN PRESIDENTS, YOUR
CULMINATING TRIP, THE DISCUSSIONS WITH SMITH IN PRETORIA
AND THE GENESIS OF THE FIVE POINTS, THE LATER TALKS
WITH KAUNDA, NYERERE AND NKOMO, YOUR COMMUNICATION TO
SMITH, HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, AND THE REACTION OF THE
BLACK NATIONALISTS.

4. I WAS HOT OVERLY CLEAR ABOUT OUR QUARREL WITH

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CROSLAND OVER THE OFFICIAL STATUS OF ANNEX C, DESCRIBING

IT ONLY AS A "BRITISH PAPER". IT DID NOT OCCUR TO HER, ANY MORE THAN IT HAD TO US, TO INQUIRE IF THE PAPER HAD HAD CABINET APPROVAL BEFOREHAND.

5. THE CONSERVATIVES ARE IN ARMS AND WANT A PUBLIC SCRAP WITH CROSLAND OH RHODESIA. THEY ARE CHARGING THAT SMITH HAS BEEN DOUBLECROSSED. CROSLAND'S ANSWER YESTERDAY THAT THE FIVE POINTS ARE "A USEFUL BASIS FOR DISCUSSION" HAD INFURIATED THEM. THATCHER HAD HANSARDS CLOSE AT HAND AND CITED PAGE AND PARAGRAPH. CROSLAND'S STATEMENTS LEAD HER IN THE DEBATE, TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THAT FORMULATION AND WHAT SHE SEES AS THE MORE MANLY STATEMENT IN HIS EARLIER PRESS RELEASE, THAT "THESE PROPOSALS REPRESENTED AN ELABORATION OF THE PLAN ORIGINALLY ADVANCED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR." SHE RETURNED TO THE POINT IN OUR CONVERSATION.

6. I EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE HARASSING HMG BY THE HOUR THAT THEY NOT GIVE EVERYTHING AWAY BEFORE THE CONFERENCE BEGAN. I TOLD THEM THAT WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO SMITH THAT WE STAND BEHIND ANNEX C., THAT PART OF THE REASON FOR THE AFRICAN NATIONALISTS' MISGIVINGS WAS THEIR SENSE THAT THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT WAS A RUSE TO CONTINUE THE PRESENT POWER STRUCTURE, THAT WE THOUGHT THAT WHEN THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT CAME CLEAR AT THE CONFERENCE THEY WOULD BE MORE UNDERSTANDING AND THAT, IN THE END, IF HMG MAINTAINED A COOL AND FIRM POSITION THEY COULD BRING IT OFF. BUT, I SAID, IT WAS OUR VIEW THAT THE CAUSE WAS NOT SERVED BY ATTEMPTING TO PRE-NEGOTIATE THE QUESTION OF THE PRECISE STRUCTURE OF THAT GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC.

7. THEY WERE ALSO LESS THAN WILDLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT RICHARDS AS CHAIRMAN. GRAVITAS IS WHAT HE LACKS, SAID MRS. THATCHER, THINKING FIGURATIVELY RATHER THAN LITERALLY.

8. SHE TOLD ME THAT A FULL, SIX-HOUR DEBATE IS NOW SCHEDULED ON RHODESIA FOR NEXT WEDNESDAY. THE ISSUE
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WILL BE THE RENEWAL OF SANCTIONS. SOME OF HER BACK-BENCHERS ARE FOR DROPPING SANCTIONS ALTOGETHER, ON THE GROUND THAT SMITH HAS NOW DONE WHAT HE OUGHT TO DO. THEY WILL CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT IT OUT ON THAT GROUND, AND TRY TO DRAW CALLAGHAN OUT ON WHETHER IN FACT OR NO SMITH ACTED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT HE WAS BUYING A PACKAGE WHICH ALL THE BLACKS HAD ALREADY

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3768

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 OECD PARIS 30261

NODIS - CHEROKEE

EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROGERS

ACCEPTED. THIS ARGUMENT MAY LEAD THEM TO IMPLY THAT SMITH NOW HAS AMPLE EXCUSE TO BACK AWAY FROM HIS STATEMENT AND REFUSE TO COME TO GENEVA UNTIL THE FIVE POINTS ARE IN FACT ACCEPTED BY THE OTHERS IN ALL PARTICULARS. MRS. THATCHER NOTED THAT EVEN SMITH HAS NOT GONE THAT FAR. SHE AND MAUDLING MUSED THAT THEY MIGHT COMPROMISE THE ISSUE BY A PROPOSAL THAT THE SANCTIONS BE EXTENDED THREE MONTHS RATHER THAN THE USUAL ONE YEAR.

9. COMMENT: SHE SEEMED GRATIFIED, IF NOT RELIEVED, TO KNOW OF OUR POSITION AND OF THE FACT THAT WE WERE URGING IT ON CROSLAND WITH SUCH REGULARITY. BUT THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE IS INEVITABLE AND SHE MADE NO COMMITMENT TO MODERATE HER BACKBENCHERS, OR THAT THE ISSUE OF WHO SAID WHAT TO WHOM WOULD BE MUTED. SHE FULLY RECOGNIZED THAT SMITH HAS NOW COME A VERY LONG WAY, THAT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WILL REPRESENT A REAL CHANGE AND THAT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL TO GET IT IN PLACE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE OR THE COMMUNISTS WILL TURN SOUTHERN AFRICA ON ITS EAR. WHETHER THIS WILL PERSUADE HER NOT TO HARASS CROSLAND TOO MUCH, THOUGH, I CANNOT SAY. MAUDLING, I FEAR, SEES THIS AS A CHANCE TO GET BACK IN THE PUBLIC EYE AS AN AFRICAN WIZARD AND NEVER MIND THAT HE IS MORE OUTRAGED AT WHAT HAS OCCURRED THAN

SMITH HIMSELF. ALL IN ALL, TROUBLE FROM A QUARTER I,
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FOR ONE, HAD NOT ANTICIPATED.
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